

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

WEEKEND COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN LOCAL PRESS FOCUSES ON RHODESIAN
DEVELOPMENTS WITH ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA'S WARNING OF
A "SECOND UDI" IN RHODESIA AS A RESULT OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT SIGNED IN SALISBURY LAST WEEK.

COMMENTING ON THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT, THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA MARCH 4
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NOTED: "THE DANGER IS THAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES, CO-AUTHORS
OF THE NOW ABANDONED ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS MAY LEND THEIR WEIGHT
TO THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT, IF THEY DIDN'T STAGE-MANAGE THE WHOLE
THING
RIGHT FROM START TO FINISH."

THE TIMES EDITORIAL SAID MORE GALLING STILL WAS THE FACT THAT

"THE WHITES WILL REMAIN VIRTUALLY IN CONTROL OF THINGS FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS &.....DR. OWN HAS BEEN WAFLING ON THE SUBJECT, ON THE ONE HAND CALLING IT A '&STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION', ON THE OTHER CALLING FOR THE PARTICIPTION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT."

THE TIMES ADDED "IT CN'T BE A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION WITHOUT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.... THIS IS AN AGREEMENT CONCEIVED IN DESPERATION. SMITH, MUZOREWA, SITHOLE AND CHIRAU ARE ALL SCARED STIFF OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT" THE AGREEMENT MAKES ZIMBABWE A SORT OF BANTUSTAN AND THE THREE AFRICANS MUST BE ASSIGNED THE ROLE OF MATANZIMA. SMITH, NATURALLY, IS VORSTER AND THE CHIEF VILLAIN OF THE PIECE." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED: "AFRICA HAS ALREADY CONDEMNED THE AGREEMENT MAINLY BECAUSE IT DOESN'T INCLUDE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT THE AGREEMENT IS A CHALLENGE TO THEIR FIGHTING SPIRIT."

IN A FRONT PAGE LEAD ARTICLE THE SUNDAY TIMES OF ZAMBIA REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA RE-AFFIRMED ZAMBIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE LIBERATION WAR BEING WAGED BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS THE ONLY MEANS THROUGH WHICH GENUINE INDEPENDENCE COULD COME TO RHODESIA. DR. KAUNDA DECLARED THAT THE INDEPENDENCE ACCORD SIGNED IN SALISBURY LAST FRIDAY WAS "WORSE THAN THE KISSINGER PLAN. IT GIVES SMITH EVERYTHING ON A SILVER PLATTER. I CAN SEE SMITH TELLING HIS FELLOW WHITE SETTLERS: "DON'T WORRY, WE HAVE GOT THE DEAL OF A LIFE TIME." HE CHARGED THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT ENTRENCHED THE SMITH REGIME EVEN MORE THAN BEFORE, ADDING: "IT IS AN AGREEMENT WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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IS GOING TO GIVE SMITH A CHANCE, IN EFFECT, TO DECLARE A SECOND UDI." HE SAID HE WOULD NOT PERSUADE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO TALK TO FELLOW RHODESIA-BASED BLACK NATIONALISTS OVER THE SETTLEMENT. "IT WOULD BE SINFUL FOR ME TO DO THAT. THIS IS A MATTER OVER WHICH ONLY MR. NKOMO AND MR. MUGABE MUST TAKE FINAL RESPONSIBILITY."

DR. KAUNDA DECLARED THAT ZAMBIA WOULD NOT FORESAKE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT DESPITE THE INTERNAL ACCORD. HE SAID "ZAMBIA WARNED BRITIAN AND THE UNITED STATES OF THE DANGER OF SMITH CREATING A SHAM SETTLEMENT AS A RESULT OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT TALKS THAT BEGUN THREE MONTHS AGO.....ZAMBIA WARNED THE TWO POWER(BRITAIN AND THE U.S. THAT UNLESS THEY REMOVED OPPRESSION WHICH WAS THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE LIBERATION WAR, THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WOULD DRIFT INTO AN IDEOLOGICAL AND RACIAL CONFLAGRATION." KAUNDA ADDED "I AM AFRAID THAT WHAT WE HAVE BEEN WARNING THE WEST ABOUT IS NOW TAKING PLACE." THE WEST, THE PRESIDENT SAID, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "SHAM SETTLEMENT" IN RHODESIA BECAUSE IT HAD TURNED ITS BACK ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS BECAUSE OF ITS LACK OF ACTION.

DR. KAUNDA WOULD NOT RQLE OUT INVOLVEMENT BY OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE CONFLICT BECAUSE "THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND FRONTLINE STATES RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CALL ON ANY OF THEIR FRIENDS FOR HELP."

TIMES OF ZAMBIA MARCH 6 SAYS SOUTHERN AFRICA WILL BECOME THE
"NEXT ARE OF WAR UNLESS POWER IN RHODESIA IS EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED
BY AFRICANS." THE TIMES WARNED: "WHAT STARTED OUT AS A PLEA
FOR JUSTICE FOR SOUTHERN RHODESIA'S AFRICANS MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS
AGO WILL END UP AS A TUSSLE FOR STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE BETWEEN SUPER
POWERS."

THE NEWSPAPER, HOWEVER, SAID THAT THERE IS STILL A CHANCE TO
AVOID THAT EVENTUALITY AND BELIEVES IT IS NOT TOO LATE FOR BRITIAN
AND AMERICA TO INSIST THAT NO SETTLEMENT THAT IGNORES THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT
CAN SUCCEED. "ONLY THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT CAN GIVE THE LEGAL BASIS
FOR SUCH A SETTLEMENT. YET, IT IS THE AMERICANS WHO MUST TAKE THE
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INITIATIVE. IT IS THE AMERICANS WHO MUST USE THEIR POWERFUL
PRESSURE TO CONVINCE MR. CALLAGHAN'S GOVERNMENT THAT THE MUZOREWA-
SITHOLE-SMITH 'SETTLEMENT' IS THE FIRST MOVE TOWARDS A HORRIFIC
CIVIL WAR IN RHODESIA AND A REACE WAR IN AFRICA."

COMMENTING ON PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S WARNING OF A SECOND UDI
IN RHODESIA, THE TIMES SAID: "SO FAR AS THE HARD-FACED REACTIONARIES
WHO RUN THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE ARE CONCERNED, THE 'SETTLEMENT'
HAS GUARANTEED CONTINUING WHITE SETTLER CONTROL OF THE REBEL
COLONY....IT IS TRAGIC AND LAUGHABLE THAT A LABOUR GOVERNMENT IN
BRITAIN HEADED BY AN IRISHMAN WITH A WELSH FOREIGN SECRETARY SHOULD
BE HOODWINKED BY AN ENGLISH WHITEHALL ESTABLISHMENT PLOT."
ITEM USIS LUSAKA.
O'BRIEN

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